

SKILLSTUTOR



READING COMPREHENSION



Classroom Guide

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GETTING STARTED

SkillsTutor Reading Comprehension LL provides extensive coverage of the skills students need to improve reading comprehension. This coverage is provided through a variety of engaging activities. Built on a framework of five units, *SkillsTutor Reading Comprehension LL* provides students with content-area lessons, skill lessons, quizzes, tests, and worksheets.

The *SkillsTutor* management system (OTS) provides several important features:

- Tests students' skills, providing both pretests and posttests to make initial assessments and gauge student progress
- Makes assignments, based on students' pretest results
- Monitors student scores and completion of activities
- Produces reports for individual students
- Provides online documentation

This guide outlines the content and activities of *SkillsTutor Reading Comprehension LL*. Information on the management system (OTS) is provided in the online *SkillsTutor* User's Guide.

COMMAND BUTTONS

Listed below are descriptions of the command buttons that will be used throughout the *SkillsTutor Reading Comprehension LL* lessons. These buttons (except the Check button) appear along the bottom of the screen.



Click **Help** to see instructions for using the current screen.



Click **Glossary** to read definitions for the bolded words in the article.



Click **Article** to read the article.



Click the **More** and **Back** arrows to page through an article.



Click **Check** to see if your answer is correct once you place all of the words in a passage or after you answer a question.



Click **Go On** to move to the next instruction or question screen.

CONTENT-AREA READING LESSONS



OVERVIEW

In *SkillsTutor Reading Comprehension LL*, each content-area reading lesson is built around an informative article from a prominent children's magazine. Each lesson has an introductory screen which includes a map and/or timeline to help frame the lesson topic for students. Following the introduction are several short activities which encourage students to begin thinking about the lesson topic. The magazine article may be contained within a single lesson or delivered in two parts, depending upon the article's length, so that lessons cover comparable amounts of material and take approximately the same amount of time to complete. While reading an article, students perform several activities designed to pace their reading and encourage comprehension. Upon completion of the article, students reinforce comprehension through a variety of engaging interactions.

LESSON COMPONENTS

Interaction Categories

Three categories of interactions are used in every content-area reading lesson. The categories are (1) before-reading interactions, (2) during-reading interactions, and (3) after-reading interactions. A general description of each category is provided below.

Before-Reading Interactions. Students encounter several before-reading interactions. These interactions include a prediction, either an idea web or a cloze passage, and a presentation of the purpose for reading. Before-reading interactions are designed to activate students' prior knowledge and to build their readiness for reading.

During-Reading Interactions. Following the presentation of the purpose for reading, students begin reading the article. Three to six pages of illustrated text are interspersed with during-reading interactions. These interactions are designed to help students pace their reading and ask themselves questions as they read, to ensure they are understanding the text.

After-Reading Interactions. Students complete five to seven after-reading interactions for each article they read. These interactions check the students' comprehension of the reading material. The interactions also reinforce knowledge of the six critical comprehension skills targeted in *SkillsTutor Reading Comprehension LL*: main idea, important details, author's purpose, cause and effect, sequencing, and inference. After-reading interactions also give students the opportunity to review the prediction made earlier in the lesson and to answer basic recall questions.

Interaction Types

Students encounter a variety of activities in the before-, during-, and after-reading interactions. These activities are described below

Idea Web. In this activity, students are presented with a content-related question. They answer the question by creating an idea web (a graphic that helps them organize their ideas). To make the web, students select four items from a list of answers and drag the items to branches of the web. For the fifth branch of the web, students create and type an answer of their own, thus completing the web. Students encounter this activity for all articles they read; however, two-part lessons contain only one idea web.

Cloze Passage. This activity is used in all two-part lessons. To help students remember the material covered in Part 1 of a lesson, a summary passage is presented at the beginning of Part 2. The passage contains several blanks which students fill from a list of words. Using context clues, students select an appropriate word for each blank and drag the word to its position in the passage.

Prediction. In this activity, students make predictions about the article they are reading, based on prior knowledge or information they discern from the title of the article. Students select a prediction from several possible answers. Feedback is not given immediately after the prediction is made. Later in the lesson, after reading the article, students are given the opportunity to change their answer or keep their original prediction. Feedback is given for their answer at that time.

Purpose for Reading. In this activity, students are presented with the purpose or objectives in reading the immediate story or article. When students find and click on the correct portion of an illustration, an animation occurs, and the purpose for reading is displayed. The intention is to help students focus on the reading objectives and to then find information in the article that helps them meet those objectives.

Click on Text. In this activity, students are presented with a question and asked to locate the sentence or text that specifically answers the question. Students scan and/or reread the article, and click to highlight the portion of the article that directly relates to the question.

Multiple-Choice Question with Single Correct Answer. In this activity, students answer a multiple-choice question by selecting a single correct answer. Students have the opportunity to reread the article before answering the question.

Multiple-Choice Question with Several Correct Answers. In this activity, students answer multiple-choice questions by selecting several correct answers. Students have the opportunity to review the article before answering.

Evaluation Questions. In this activity, students make a decision about what they have read. After they make their initial decision, they choose one or more reasons to support their choice.

Main Idea Chart. In this activity, students use a familiar graphic organizer to identify a main idea after being given three supporting details.

Supporting Details Chart. In this activity, students use a familiar graphic organizer to choose three details that support a given main idea.

Picture Sequencing. In this activity, students see three pictures representing a sequence from the article. They drag the pictures into the correct order.

Text Sequencing. In this activity, three to six details from the article are displayed out of order. Students rearrange the details by dragging them into the correct order.

Comic Strip. In this activity, students see three panels from a comic strip. The final panel is missing text. From three options, students choose the text that best completes the story line.

COMPREHENSION SKILL LESSONS



In addition to the broad, content-area lessons previously discussed, *SkillsTutor Reading Comprehension LL* provides six lessons that focus on a single comprehension skill. The six skills are (1) main idea, (2) important details, (3) author's purpose, (4) cause and effect, (5) sequencing, and (6) inference. Each of the six comprehension skill lessons has an idea web and a prediction question to prepare students for learning about a targeted skill. Students then see a short tutorial on the basics of that skill. After reading an excerpt from an article, students answer questions related to the target skill. The lesson contains several excerpts and 10 scored questions. Questions and feedback are designed to give explicit instruction on that lesson's comprehension skill. The interactions in the comprehension skill lessons are similar to those in the content-area reading lessons.

THE QUIZ

A quiz is provided at the end of each unit. The quiz contains 12 questions—two questions for each of the six critical comprehension skills. Each quiz question refers to an excerpt from an article in the unit just completed, so the text is familiar to students. Unlike the interactive lesson questions, the quiz questions are presented in a multiple-choice format to give students practice in answering the kinds of questions encountered on standardized tests. After the quiz, students have the opportunity to review the questions they missed. During the review, feedback is provided for each missed question.

TESTS

SkillsTutor Reading Comprehension LL has one pretest and one posttest. Each test contains 12 questions—two questions for each of the six critical comprehension skills. Tests are based on an article the students have not seen in any of the lessons, so that students may be tested on unfamiliar text. Like the questions for quizzes, the test questions are presented in multiple-choice format to give students practice in answering standardized-test questions. After each test, students have the opportunity to review the questions they missed. Feedback is provided for each missed question.

SKILL CORRELATIONS



This section provides a list of all content-area reading lessons in *SkillsTutor Reading Comprehension LL*. Unlike comprehension skill lessons, which focus on a single skill throughout one lesson, content-area reading lessons cover several skills. Each content-area reading lesson provides practice in answering questions in essential reading skills as well as basic recall. The six reading skills that are the focus of *SkillsTutor Reading Comprehension LL* are main idea, important details, cause and effect, sequencing, author's purpose, and inference. The list that follows displays the content-area lesson names and the targeted skills for each lesson.

SkillsTutor Reading Comprehension LL Skill Correlations

Lesson Title	Important Details	Main Idea	Cause/ Effect	Sequencing	Author's Purpose	Inference	Recall	Prediction
LEVEL LL								
Health								
1	Skin: The Great Protector	❖	❖			❖	❖	❖
2	Life in Space		❖		❖	❖		❖
3	The Food Guide Pyramid	❖	❖			❖	❖	❖
Countries and Regions								
1	Australia: Making the Great Barrier Reef Greater	❖	❖	❖		❖	❖	❖
2	India: Saving World Treasures		❖		❖	❖	❖	❖
3	Antarctica: Antarctica Shaves Ice							❖
Animals								
1	Animal Speeds	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖		❖
2	Protecting the Magnificent Monarchs	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖		❖
3	Exploring the Manatees	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖		❖
Holidays								
1	A Day to Celebrate Earth: Earth Day	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖
2	Black History Month	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖	❖
3	Honoring Our Veterans	❖	❖		❖	❖	❖	❖
The United States								
1	California: Threatened Giants	❖	❖		❖	❖		❖
2	Alaska: Great Quakes	❖		❖	❖	❖	❖	❖
3	Hawaii: Volcano Watch		❖	❖			❖	❖

LESSON SUMMARIES



In this section you will find lesson summaries for each of the articles in *SkillsTutor Reading Comprehension LL*. The summaries are meant to provide, at a glance, a description of the article and an example of the type of questions students encounter for that article.

Level LL includes lessons that are targeted for grades 2 to 4.

Lessons are grouped into units that reflect the general themes expressed in the articles. The units appear in this order:

- Health
- Countries and Regions
- Animals
- Holidays
- The United States

Reading Comprehension LL

Lesson Number	Lesson Title	Lesson Summary	Example
S	Skill Lesson: Main Idea	This lesson helps students understand and provides practice in identifying the main idea of passages and articles.	Which of these sentences does the author use as an example to support the main idea? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Last year, the league had 51 foreign players from 30 nations.</i> <i>2. In 1983, the NBA had eight foreign-born players.</i> <i>3. Nelson is an NBA coach.</i> <i>4. Basketball was first played in the United States.</i>
S	Skill Lesson: Cause and Effect	This lesson helps students understand and provides practice in identifying cause and effect.	Many male elephants are killed for their ivory tusks. What effect does killing the male elephants have? <i>"...there are fewer baby elephants born."</i>
Health			
1	Skin: The Great Protector	This article describes how the skin protects us and how we can protect our skin. Specific components of the skin are discussed as the skin's jobs are explored.	Which of the details below describe the jobs of the skin's layer? <p>■ The lowest layer keeps your body warm.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The lowest layer is made up mostly of fat.</p> <p>■ The lowest layer protects your body if you get hit.</p> <p>■ The middle layer keeps your skin soft and waterproof.</p> <p>■ The top layer keeps germs and dirt out of the body.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The middle layer contains nerves and blood.</p>
2	Life in Space	This article presents information about how astronauts on the space shuttle perform the same daily life activities performed on earth, yet often in different ways. Eating, sleeping, working, exercising, dressing and bathing are the topics explored.	Why can't astronauts take showers on the space shuttle? <i>"Shower water would float all over the place."</i>

Reading Comprehension LL

Lesson Number	Lesson Title	Lesson Summary	Example
3	The Food Guide Pyramid	This article presents the Food Guide Pyramid. The importance of a healthy diet and the nutritional value of each food group are discussed.	<p>If you eat a peanut butter sandwich, an apple, and a glass of milk for lunch, what food groups have you eaten?</p> <p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Milk, yogurt and cheese group <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meat, poultry, fish, dry beans, eggs and nuts group <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetable group <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fruit group <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bread, cereal, rice and pasta group </p>
S	Skill Lesson: Inference	This lesson helps students understand and make sound inferences.	<p>What sentence in the text helps you make the inference that Kielburger's group encouraged education?</p> <p><i>"The group helped build 300 schools in poor countries."</i></p>
S	Skill Lesson: Author's Purpose	This lesson helps students understand and provides practice in identifying the author's purpose in passages and articles.	<p>What is the author's purpose for writing this passage?</p> <p> 1 To persuade the reader that UFOs are not alien spaceships 2. To persuade the reader that UFOs are alien spaceships. 3. To inform the reader that UFOs exist 4. To inform the reader that UFOs do not exist </p>

Reading Comprehension LL

Lesson Number	Lesson Title	Lesson Summary	Example
Countries and Regions			
1	Australia: Making the Great Barrier Reef Greater	This article is about the Great Barrier Reef, a group of many coral reefs off the northeastern coast of Australia. The physical features and the formation of the reef are included. The article also goes into detail about many of the interesting sea creatures that make their homes in the reef. The author stresses the need to preserve the reef in order to preserve the creatures and plants that live on and around it.	<p>Tiny creatures called polyp form coral reefs. How do polyps form the reef?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Polyps die and leave behind their old shells.</i> 2. <i>Other polyps then live on top of the old shells.</i> 3. <i>The shells pile up for thousands of years to make a coral reef.</i>
2	India: Saving World Treasures	This article tells us about the special World Heritage sites that are found in India. The Taj Mahal, Konarak Sun Temple and Manas Wildlife Sanctuary are three of the places that are being protected so people can experience them for a long time.	<p>Why did the author write this article?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 <i>To teach students about important things in other cultures</i> 2. <i>To get people to visit India</i> 3. <i>To show that India is the greatest place in the world</i>
3	Antarctica: Antarctica Shaves Ice	This article describes the continent of Antarctica. Antarctica is covered in polar ice. Big chunks of this ice are breaking off at an increased rate. This leads the article to discuss scientific theories on why the ice is melting. Global warming is covered in detail.	<p>Why do whales that live in Antarctica migrate north?</p> <p><i>"...to have their babies"</i></p>
S	Skill Lesson: Sequencing	This lesson helps students understand sequence of events and practice placing events in correct time order.	<p>Put the events from the article in the correct order.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>People visit the dinosaur exhibit.</i> 2. <i>People visit the Ice Age exhibit.</i> 3. <i>People walk to the museum's second floor.</i> 4. <i>People watch an IMAX movie.</i>

Reading Comprehension LL

Lesson Number	Lesson Title	Lesson Summary	Example
S	Skill Lesson: Important Details	This lesson helps students understand and provides practice in identifying important details.	<p>Which are important details that describe Columbus's trip to North America?</p> <p>■ On his second trip, he sailed with 17 ships and 1,200 men.</p> <p>■ On his third trip in 1498, Columbus sailed farther south.</p> <p>■ His fourth and last trip was in 1502.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Columbus died in 1506.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Dominica is an island in the Caribbean.</p>
Animals			
1	Animal Speeds	<p>This article is about the fastest creatures on land, in the air, and in the water. Students will learn that most animals use their speed either to catch food or for protection.</p> <p>Interesting details include how speedy animals move so fast, what characteristics fast fish, birds, and animals have in common, as well as how long they can keep up their amazing energy.</p>	<p>The author of this article compares the speeds of different animals. How does the author make the comparison clear?</p> <p>1. The author puts the animals' speeds in a chart.</p> <p>2. The author puts all of the animals' speeds in the same paragraph.</p> <p>3. The author uses the animals' speeds as paragraph headings.</p> <p>4. The author put all of the animals' speeds in a list.</p>
2	Protecting the Magnificent Monarchs	<p>This article is about the life of the beautiful monarch butterfly. Following a brief description of this familiar insect, students will read about its life cycle: from egg to larva to pupa to butterfly. Students will also learn that this insect is part of a remarkable migration. Monarch butterflies fly thousands of miles to the forests of Mexico where the plight of the trees there endangers the butterfly's future.</p>	<p>Why is the monarch butterfly also called the milkweed butterfly?</p> <p><i>"Milkweed is the only thing the monarch caterpillar can eat."</i></p>

Reading Comprehension LL

Lesson Number	Lesson Title	Lesson Summary	Example
3	Exploring the Manatees	This article presents information about manatees. Students are introduced to scientist Caryn Self Sullivan who is studying these gentle, endangered creatures in the waters off Belize. Find out what manatees eat, where they live, and how they communicate.	Which details will help scientists protect manatees? ■ Manatees stay with their babies for two years. ■ Mal manatees visit the coral reef in the summer. <input type="checkbox"/> Manatee babies are called calves. ■ Manatees eat more than 100 pounds of plants each day. <input type="checkbox"/> Manatees use their flippers to hold their food. <input type="checkbox"/> Some large manatees can stay underwater for up to 20 minutes.
Holidays			
1	A Day to Celebrate Earth: Earth Day	This article is about Earth Day. Students will learn how this holiday was started in 1970. They will read about how adults and children around the world spread the message to care for our earth. Examples are given for how to reduce trash, reuse paper and cardboard, and stop pollution to show respect for earth.	This article was written to_____. 1. encourage people to take care of the earth 2. explain the history of American holidays 3. describe how a new holiday is created 4. tell people the dangers of pollution
2	Black History Month	This article is about Black History Month. The author gives a brief history of how a month to study the accomplishments of African Americans was first promoted by Dr. Carter Woodson. The remainder of the article is devoted to short biographies of African Americans who advanced civil rights. Included in the article are Harriet Tubman, Marian Anderson, Jesse Owens, Jackie Robinson, Rosa Parks, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.	Which sentence tells you the race of Dr. Carter Woodson? <i>"His parents were slaves."</i>

Reading Comprehension LL

Lesson Number	Lesson Title	Lesson Summary	Example
3	Honoring Our Veterans	This article presents information about why Veterans Day was created and how it is celebrated in the United States. Details about ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, school and church celebrations, and war memorials are included. The article also touches upon similar holidays celebrated around the world.	<p>Which of these details shows that veterans are honored in many countries?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Veterans had very important jobs.</p> <p>■ Veterans Day was made as a day to honor Americans veterans of all wars.</p> <p>■ In France, they celebrate Veterans Day on May 8.</p> <p>■ In Canada, November 11 is known as Remembrance Day.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Monuments are statues or buildings that remind people of someone or something.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A veteran is a man or woman who served as a soldier for his country.</p>
The United States			
1	California: Threatened Giants	This article provides information about California's amazing redwood trees. The ongoing effort to protect these trees from both humans and disease is discussed.	<p>Why did the author discuss the death of chestnut trees in an article about redwoods?</p> <p>1. The author wanted to show how diseases can harm trees.</p> <p>2. The author wanted to show that all fungi cause horrible diseases.</p> <p>3. The author wanted to show how sudden oak death killed all of the chestnut trees.</p> <p>4. The author wanted to show how much stronger redwood trees are than chestnut trees.</p>
2	Alaska: Great Quakes	This article introduces the students to Alaska's uniqueness. The author focuses on the frequent occurrence of earthquakes in Alaska. Two major earthquakes are discussed.	<p>How did Alaska get its name?</p> <p><i>"...from the Eskimo word alakshak. This means 'peninsula.'"</i></p>

Reading Comprehension LL

Lesson Number	Lesson Title	Lesson Summary	Example
3	Hawaii: Volcano Watch	This article introduces Hawaii as an island formed by volcanoes. The world's largest volcano, Mauna Loa, located in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, is examined.	<p>Scientists study volcanoes so they can predict when a volcano will erupt. Put these events in an order that makes sense and saves lives.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Scientists notice more earthquake activity near a volcano.</i>2. <i>Scientists predict that the volcano will erupt soon.</i>3. <i>TV stations tell people that the volcano will erupt soon.</i>4. <i>People living near the volcano leave their homes.</i>5. <i>The volcano erupts.</i>

WORKSHEETS



This section contains reproducible worksheets* for each content-area reading lesson in *SkillsTutor Reading Comprehension LL*. Worksheets may be used by students to extend the computer activity or as a homework assignment.

The worksheets begin with a synopsis of the article students encountered in the lesson. In general, worksheet activities serve to test the students' comprehension of the article. They also provide suggestions for creative writing, drawing, craft, or performance activities related to the article.

LEVEL LL WORKSHEETS

Health

Skin: The Great Protector

Life in Space

The Food Guide Pyramid

Countries and Regions

Australia: Making the Great Barrier Reef Greater

India: Saving World Treasures

Antarctica: Antarctica Shaves Ice

Animals

Animal Speeds

Protecting the Magnificent Monarchs

Exploring the Manatees

Holidays

A Day to Celebrate Earth: Earth Day

Black History Month

Honoring Our Veterans

The United States

California: Threatened Giants

Alaska: Great Quakes

Hawaii: Volcano Watch

* These worksheets are provided with the online documentation and may be printed from your computer.



Skin: The Great Protector

This article explains how skin protects your body and how you can protect your skin. Skin protects your body from dirt, germs and the sun's dangerous rays. It protects your muscles and bones. The nerves in your skin allow you to feel hot, cold and pain. This protects you from burning or hurting yourself. There are many things you can do to protect your skin. Eating a healthy diet, protecting your skin from the sun, and keeping your skin clean are three ways to protect your skin.

Skin is the largest organ in your body. The skin protects your body in many ways. Your body is made up of many other organs too. Each of these organs has a special job. Use a dictionary, computer, encyclopedia or science book to find out the job of each of the following organs.

Organ	Job
heart	
lungs	
stomach	
intestines	
liver	

smART Idea



Skin protects your body in many ways. It is important to take care of it. Create a poster to hang in your school that will teach other children how to take care of their skin. Be sure to include a “catchy” title to attract attention.

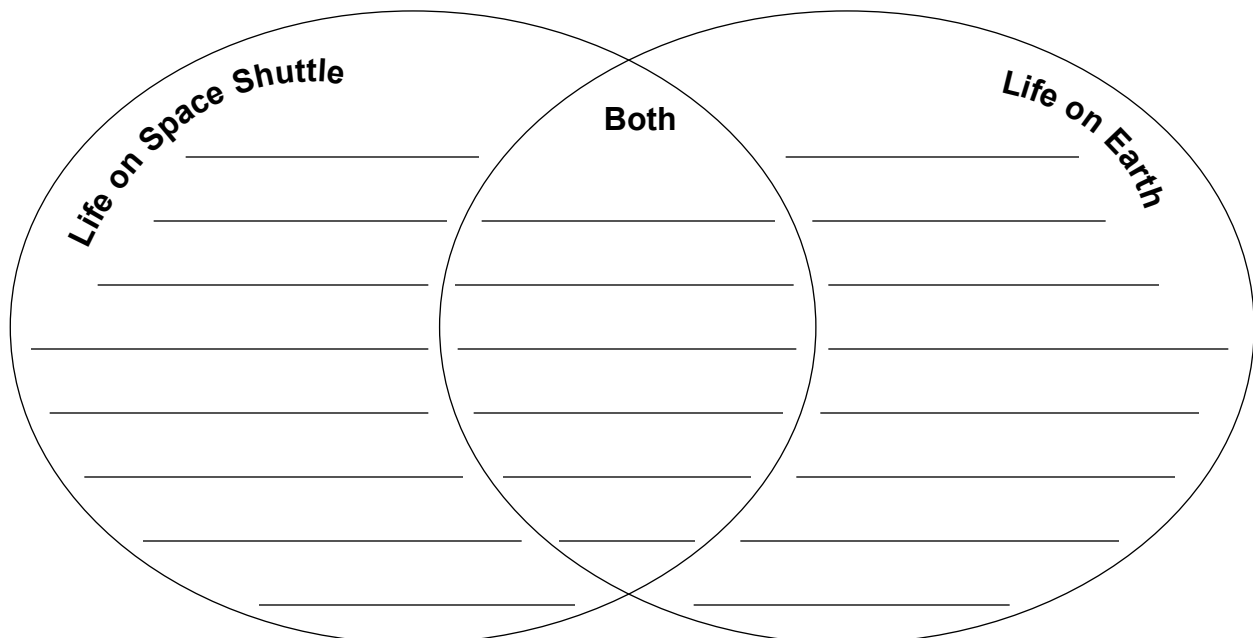


Life in Space

This article tells how astronauts on the space shuttle do many of the same things that we do on earth, yet in a different way. There is no gravity in space. Without gravity, everything floats.

Astronauts must be careful when eating, sleeping and bathing. Special cups, foods, beds and soaps are needed to keep the astronauts safe. Floating crumbs, water or objects can be dangerous. Astronauts must also wear special clothing during takeoff and when traveling outside the spacecraft for safety. Exercising each day keeps the astronauts' muscles strong so that they can return safely to earth's gravity.

Complete the Venn diagram to find similarities and differences between life on the space shuttle and life on earth. Think about the topics discussed in the article: eating, sleeping, working, having fun, exercising, dressing and bathing.



Write Idea



You are a reporter for the local paper. You are about to get the chance to interview an astronaut who has just returned from his first space shuttle trip. Make a list of questions you would like to ask him.



The Food Guide Pyramid

This article explains why eating right helps you stay healthy. It is important to eat foods from all of the food groups to get the nutrients your body needs to live and grow. Your body should have small amounts of food from the fats and oils group. The meat group provides protein needed to build strong muscles. The milk group gives your body calcium and vitamin D to build strong bones and healthy teeth. The fruit group gives you vitamin C to fight germs that make you sick. The vegetable group provides vitamin A to keep your eyes and skin healthy. The bread group, the biggest part of what you eat, supplies carbohydrates needed for energy. The Food Guide Pyramid helps us remember what the six food groups are and how many servings of each food we should eat each day.

List the foods you like to eat. Be sure to put them in the correct food group. Some foods may be in more than one group.

Fats, oils and sweets

Milk group

Meat group

Vegetable group

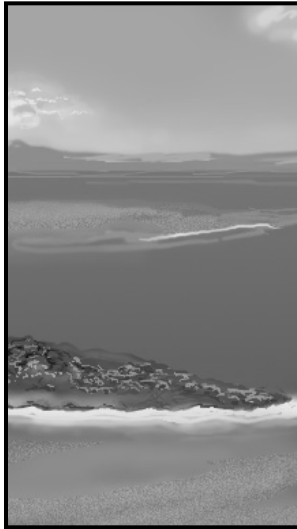
Fruit group

Bread group

Write Idea



Make a healthy diet plan for a day's meals. Include breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks in your plan. Use the Food Guide Pyramid to be sure that you include the recommended number of servings for each food group.



Australia: Making the Great Barrier Reef

The Great Barrier Reef is a group of many coral reefs off the northeastern coast of Australia. The reef is made up of billions of shells of tiny creatures called polyps. The Great Barrier Reef has several important jobs. One job is to protect the coast of Australia. Another job is to be the home of many interesting sea creatures.

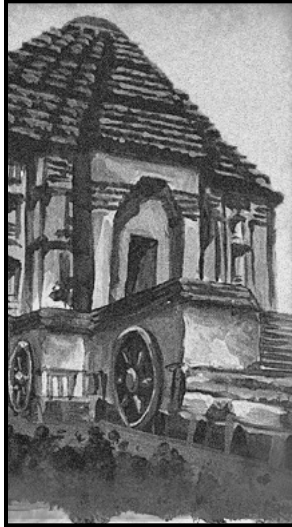
You know that sea creatures called polyps form the Great Barrier Reef. You also know that many other sea creatures live in and around the reef. Use this chart to compare the different animals and fish that you learned about in this article. Place an X in each cell of the table that applies to the creature in the column head.

	Dugong	Green Sea Turtle	Polyp	Purple Sea Urchin	Starfish	Clownfish
Plant Eater						
Meat Eater						
Lives on Reef						
Lives Below Reef						
Spiny Skin						
Hard Shell						
Fish						
Mammal						
Flippers						

Write Idea



A slogan is a sentence or phrase that expresses the goals of an organization. “The Quicker Picker-Upper” is the slogan for Bounty paper towels. “M’m! M’m! Good!” is the slogan for Campbell’s Soup, and “Breakfast of Champions” is the slogan for Wheaties cereal. Pretend that the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park has hired you for a job. They have asked you to create a slogan for their park. Remember that the goal of the park is to allow people to enjoy the reef, but also to preserve it.



India: Saving World Treasures

This article tells us about the wonderful and interesting World Heritage sites that are found in India. The Taj Mahal is a large tomb, or grave. It was built to honor a king's wife. The Konarak Sun Temple was built in the 13th century to honor the sun god, Surya. Tigers, leopards, and rhinos are some of the animals that are protected in the Manas Wildlife Sanctuary.

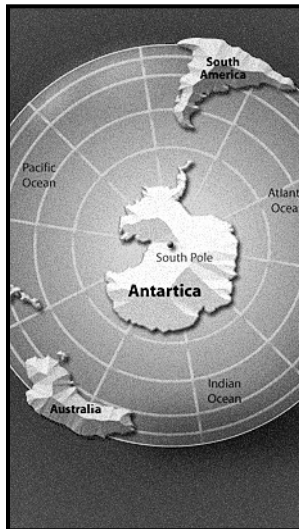
Complete the graphic organizer to compare and contrast the special places that are found in India and in the state that you live. Think about the places discussed in the article and why they are important to India. Then think about the special places in your state. How are they similar? Different?

Special Places in India	Special Places in My State

smART Idea



You are creating a visitors' guide to India. Design a small booklet that shows some important places to visit. Don't forget to include why the places are special to India and why tourists might be interested in seeing these places.



Antarctica: Antarctica Shaves Ice

This article tells us about the importance of polar ice. Scientists are working hard to understand what is causing it to break away from Antarctica. Global warming may be one reason why the ice is breaking away. Global warming is a rise in the world's temperature. Some scientists think that the breaking ice is part of nature. All scientists believe that they need to learn more to solve this mystery.

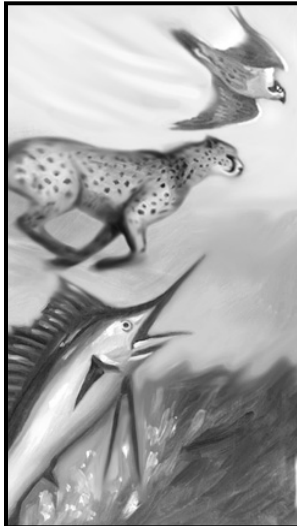
Complete the graphic organizer to show what's different and what's the same about cold weather activities and warm weather activities. Think about the temperatures that are needed for each activity.

Cold Weather Activities	Warm Weather Activities

Write Idea



Pretend that you are a scientists studying polar ice from a weather station in Antarctica. Write a letter home describing your typical day. What is the weather like? What do you wear? How do you get around? What are some of your experiments?



Animal Speeds

This article is about the fastest creatures on land, in the air, and in the water. Most animals use their speed to catch food or to avoid being caught! The world's speediest animals have a few things in common: their appearance, for example. Most speedy animals are thin and sleek.

This article is about the world's speediest animals. The descriptions of many animals include their speeds. The author uses a chart to compare the speeds of many different animals.

Below is a list of animals named in the article. Use a different graphic organizer to compare the speeds of the animals. You can create a "speedline" that looks something like a timeline. You can create a graphic that looks like the speedometer of a vehicle. Or, you can create a different kind of graphic that clearly shows the speed of each animal. Make sure you include all of the animals listed below.

Cheetah
Greyhound
Human
Peregrine falcon
Dolphin
Sailfish

Write Idea



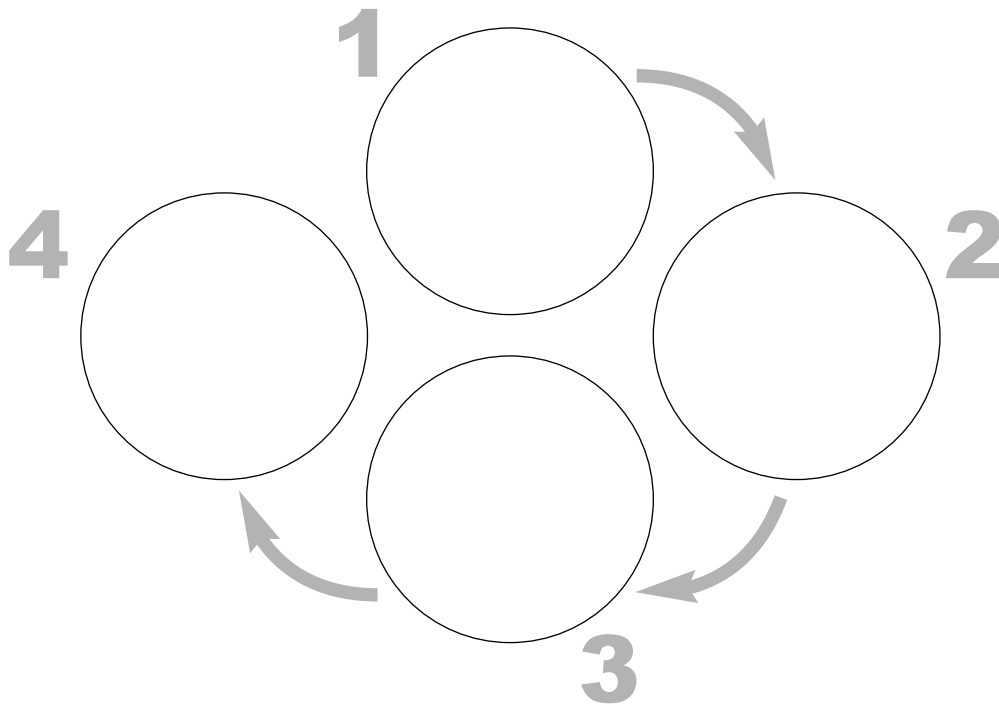
Have you ever heard a horse race being announced? It's a little bit like listening to a ball game on the radio. Pretend that you are watching a race between a kangaroo, a cheetah and a human. You have to announce the race! Who gets the fastest start? Who keeps their speed up the longest? Are the racers staying in their lanes, or are they chasing each other? Make your play-by-play of the race as interesting as possible.



Protecting the Magnificent Monarchs

This article is about the monarch butterfly. The monarch butterfly is common in the United States and Canada. You may have seen its orange and black wings fluttering around your house. In this article, you learned about the life cycle of the monarch. You learn how it turns from an egg, to a larva, to a pupa, and finally, to a butterfly. You also learned how the monarch leaves the cold winter weather behind and travels as far as 3000 miles to the warm weather of Mexico.

Create a circle map that shows the life cycle of the monarch butterfly. Using the details from the article, draw a picture of each stage. Label your pictures.



Write Idea



You read in the article that the monarch butterfly spends summers in the north and winters in the south. Pretend you are a monarch who has made the trip south. Write a postcard to your friend who is still in the north. Describe your trip. What's the weather like where you are now? Describe your sur-



Exploring the Manatees

According to this article, many facts are known about manatees. Manatees are plant-eating mammals. They are gentle creatures who live in warm waters. Scientists like Caryn Self Sullivan continue to study the manatee to find out more. Scientists would especially like to find out where manatees live during different seasons. The more people know about manatees, the better people can protect these interesting animals.

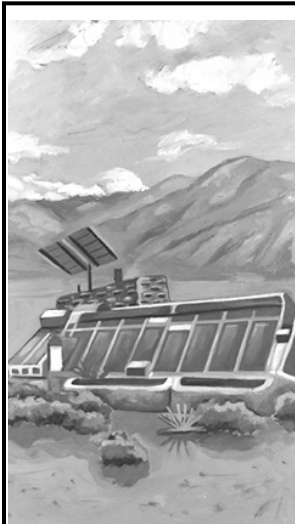
Review all of the facts you learned about manatees. Review also the questions that scientists still have about manatees. Complete the two categories on this worksheet with facts we know about manatees and questions we still have. The first two items have been added for you as examples.

Known About Manatees	Unknown About Manatees
<i>Mammals</i>	<i>Where do they go during the winter?</i>

Write Idea



You are a scientist on a trip to study manatees. You are keeping a journal of your trip. Write a journal entry for one day of the trip. What do you do while you wait to spot manatees? Do you see any manatees this day? If yes, what do you observe about the animals?



A Day To Celebrate Earth: Earth Day

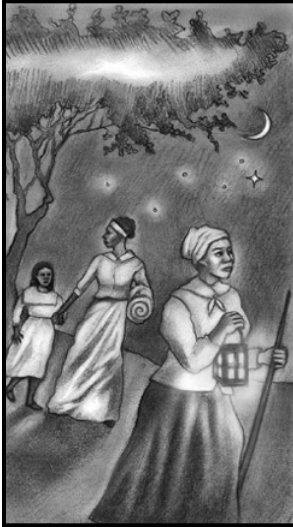
Earth Day was started in 1970. It is celebrated around the world every April 22. People celebrate in many ways. Some clean up parks and plant trees. Other people participate in projects to spread the word about reducing trash and pollution. There are even people who celebrate Earth Day every day, like the people who live in an Earthship. An Earthship is a home made of recycled materials. An Earthship saves water and energy.

You read about an Earthship. You know that it is made of recycled materials like old tires and used soda cans. The author also mentions that glass bottles can be used to build an Earthship. In fact, any kind of recycled materials can be used in an Earthship. Use the space below to create a plan for an Earthship. What kind of recycled materials would work best? Where would you use recycled materials? The roof? The walls? Be creative and detailed with your plan.

Write Idea



In 1970, Senator Gaylord Nelson convinced other lawmakers, including the President of the United States, to create Earth Day. Pretend that you are Senator Nelson. Write a letter to the President telling him why you think Earth Day is an important addition to the calendar.



Black History Month

Dr. Carter Woodson, the son of slaves, found that his college American History class did not include the stories of African Americans. He proposed a month devoted to the study of Black History. This article fills in some of the holes in American History with the accomplishments of several great African Americans. Included are the stories of civil rights workers, former slaves, athletes, and entertainers.

Use the graphic organizer below to summarize the accomplishments of the African Americans discussed in this article. Put the events in the correct time sequence from earliest to most recent. Here is a list of the people who were covered in the article along with an important year in the life of that person:

**Jesse Owens, 1936 | Martin Luther King, Jr., 1964 | Marian Anderson, 1939
Harriet Tubman, 1850 | Jackie Robinson, 1947 | Rosa Parks, 1955**

Write Idea



Harriet Tubman helped 300 slaves escape from slavery to the North. Tubman's first trip was back to get her sister. This was a very dangerous trip to make. The plans had to be kept secret. Pretend that you are Harriet Tubman. Write a letter to your sister arranging her escape. You must tell her when and where to meet, what to bring and what to wear without giving away too much information.



Honoring Our Veterans


Veterans Day is a holiday to honor U.S. veterans. Towns, schools, and churches all show their respect for soldiers in different ways. This article tells how American soldiers are honored with parades, ceremonies, and monuments. In particular, a new monument to honor the heroes of World War II is described. The monument has different features that represent the brave men and women as well as the great country for which they fought.

You know that the World War II monument will have two arches and 56 pillars to represent the 50 states, Washington, D.C., and the U.S. territories. Design a monument to honor someone or something that is important to you. It can be the teachers in your school, your soccer team, or even your grandparents. What about the person or group of people makes you want to honor them? How can you represent these people in your monument? What features will you give your monument that will show others how great your special people are? Use the space below to draw your monument. Add labels describing the important features and what they represent.

Write Idea



Most people know someone who has been a soldier. Maybe your neighbor fought in Vietnam. Perhaps your mother served in the Gulf War. You may have to go back even farther in history. Did someone in your family fight in one of the World Wars? Ask your parents, grandparents or neighbors about a soldier they know. Write a description of that person and his or her military service.



California: Threatened Giants

This article tells us about the world's tallest trees, California's redwoods. These amazing trees can live for more than 2000 years. They can grow up to 360 feet tall and 20 feet wide. Redwoods were cut down for lumber for many years. Redwoods are now protected in state parks and in Muir Woods (295 acres of redwood forest donated by the Kents). A disease called sudden oak death is hurting the redwoods. This disease grows easily on redwood trees and can kill them. Scientists hope to find a cure for sudden oak death so that the amazing redwoods will live for a long time.

You live in California. Your school is having a bake sale to raise money to help scientists cure sudden oak death. You have been asked to convince the students in your class to help with the bake sale. Write a speech telling what you will say to your classmates. Be sure to include how amazing redwoods are and why it is important to save them.

smART Idea

Trees are an important natural resource. We use trees for many things. Many fruits and nuts come from trees. Paper, cardboard and wood come from trees. Trees are also used for fun. You can climb trees or build a tree house. Draw 2 pictures showing why trees are important to you.



Alaska: Great Quakes

This article describes Alaska as a unique state in our country. Alaska is America's "Last Frontier." Most of it is still wild. It is the coldest and biggest of all our states. Alaska also has more earthquakes than all of our other 49 states. You read about two big Alaskan quakes in the article. In 2002, an earthquake in Denali National Park destroyed many fishing villages. This quake broke open a crack in the Earth 130 miles long. In 1964, an earthquake occurred in Anchorage, one of Alaska's cities. Downtown Anchorage and many towns along the coast were damaged. Scientists study these and other earthquakes to help predict future earthquakes.


An earthquake is a natural event that can cause a lot of damage. There are many other natural events that cause damage. Use a dictionary, computer or encyclopedia to describe each of the following natural events.

Natural Event	Description
tornado	
hurricane	
flood	
tsunami	
avalanche	
volcanic eruption	

smART Idea



In this article, you learned that Alaska has many earthquakes. You also learned that Alaska is a great place to visit if you like adventure. Make a travel brochure for Alaska. Use the Internet, books or encyclopedias to learn about all of the great things you can see and do in Alaska.



Volcanoes National Park

Hawaiian Islands

Hawaii: Volcano Watch

This article tells us about the volcanoes of Hawaii. Long ago, five undersea volcanoes erupted and formed the Hawaiian Islands. The largest of the Hawaiian Islands, often called “The Big Island,” is the island of Hawaii. On this island, there is a National Park just for volcanoes. You can visit this park to learn about the world’s largest volcano, Mauna Loa, and the world’s most active volcano, Kilauea. Scientists are keeping a close watch on Mauna Loa. It appears to be coming back to life. Many people live near or on Mauna Loa. It is important for scientists to predict future eruptions. When scientists think Mauna Loa will erupt again, they will tell people so they can leave the area safely.

Haiku is a short Japanese poem. The poem has 3 lines with 5 syllables in the first line, 7 syllables in the second line and 5 syllables in the third line. Many haiku are about nature. Here is an example of a haiku about a hurricane:

The Hurricane

Gusting, huge winds blow *(5 syllables)*

Rain pounds, the streets are flooded *(7 syllables)*

Waves crash on the shore. *(5 syllables)*

Write a haiku about volcanoes.

_____ *(5 syllables)*

_____ *(7 syllables)*

_____ *(5 syllables)*

Draw a picture on the back of this paper to go with your poem.

Write Idea



You work for the local radio station in the town closest to Mauna Loa. Scientists have just told you that Mauna Loa is going to erupt soon! Write the announcement that you will give to your listeners. Be sure to convince your listeners that the volcano is going to erupt and that they must leave quickly!

ASSIGNMENT SHEETS



The following are assignment sheets for *SkillsTutor Reading Comprehension LL*, which list the available activities. The *SkillsTutor* management system (OTS) will monitor your lesson assignments and the activities your students complete. However, it may be helpful to photocopy the assignment sheets to help you plan lesson assignments or to help your students keep track of the activities they complete.

Assignment Sheets

Activity			Date Assigned	Date Completed	Score/Progress
	•	Level LL Pretest			
	S	Skill Lesson: Main Idea			
	S	Skill Lesson: Cause and Effect			
Health					
	1	Skin: The Great Protector			
	2	Life in Space			
	3	The Food Guide Pyramid			
	Q	Health Quiz			
	S	Skill Lesson: Inference			
	S	Skill Lesson: Author's Purpose			
Countries and Regions					
	1	Australia: Making the Great Barrier Reef Greater			
	2	India: Saving World Treasures			
	3	Antarctica: Antarctica Shaves Ice			
	Q	Countries and Regions Quiz			
	S	Skill Lesson: Sequencing			
	S	Skill Lesson: Important Details			
Animals					
	1	Animal Speeds			
	2	Protecting the Magnificent Monarchs			
	3	Exploring the Manatees			
	Q	Animals Quiz			

Assignment Sheets

Activity			Date Assigned	Date Completed	Score/Progress
Holidays					
	1	A Day to Celebrate Earth: Earth Day			
	2	Black History Month			
	3	Honoring Our Veterans			
	Q	Holidays Quiz			
The United States					
	1	California: Threatened Giants			
	2	Alaska: Great Quakes			
	3	Hawaii: Volcano Watch			
	Q	The United States Quiz			
	•	Level LL Posttest			